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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/648,586	08/26/2003	Efren M. Lacap	408204	4089
30955	7590	01/04/2006	EXAMINER	
LATHROP & GAGE LC 4845 PEARL EAST CIRCLE SUITE 300 BOULDER, CO 80301			JOHNSON, JONATHAN J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1725	

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/648,586	LACAP ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Jonathan Johnson	1725	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 25-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 25-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 25-28 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). AAPA teaches forming a socket on a first surface of a microchip, such that the socket has predetermined physical dimensions complementary to those of a microchip connection pad footprint occupied by at least one contact pad area on the microchip (fig. 2, item 29), the socket presenting a conductive base capable of bonding to solder; forming a solder layer (figure 2, items 3a, 3b, 3c where the layer comprises discrete units of solder balls) in substantially continuous contact with the conductive base (where the solder is in continuous contact with the conductive base) to place a solder bar (where the examiner interprets the solder ball to be a thin solder bar) in the socket and place the microchip in made-ready condition for installation. (fig. 2, item 3a); wherein the microchip contains a silicon wafer and the step of forming the socket comprises depositing an adhesion layer onto the wafer, and depositing under-bump-metallization (UBM) material contacting the adhesion layer to complete formation of the conductive base (figure 2, items 4, 28 and 29); wherein the step of depositing the adhesion layer includes depositing a conductor selected from the group consisting of aluminum, nickel-vanadium, titanium, tungsten and copper (specification, paragraph 7); wherein the step of

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depositing the UMB material includes depositing a conductor selected from at least one of titanium, tungsten, vanadium, tin, copper, aluminum, gold, silver, and lead (specification, paragraph 8); wherein the step of forming the socket includes the predetermined dimensions selected from the group consisting of rectangular, "E," "L," and "U" shapes (figure 2, side profile of item 29); wherein the step of forming the socket includes the physical dimensions selected from the group consisting of ring, square, and circular shapes (figure 2, top view of item 20a); , wherein the step of forming the socket includes the physical dimensions being complimentary to the solder bar having a planar rectilinear configuration (figure 2, side view of 20A); wherein the step of forming the socket includes the physical dimensions being complimentary to the solder bar having a planar curvilinear configuration (figure 2, top view of 20a); wherein the step of forming the socket includes the physical dimensions being complimentary to the solder bar having a planar curvilinear configuration (figure 2, item 3a); wherein the step of forming the socket further comprising a step of forming a passivation layer on substantially all of the first surface, exclusive of an area where the socket is located (figure 2, item 29); wherein the step of forming the passivation layer includes the steps of: applying one or more layers of passivation material to the entire first surface; and removing selected portions of the passivation material covering the area where the socket is to be located (figure 2, item 29); wherein the step of applying one or more layers of passivation material includes applying at least one layer selected from the group consisting of polysilicon, silicon dioxide, and benzocyclobutane (figure 2, item 28).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of US 6,977,396 (Shen). Shen teaches replacing older balls with a solder bar (col. 6, ll. 30-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the solder balls to utilize a solder bar in order to increase the area of interconnect (see Shen col. 6, ll. 30-45).

Claims 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of US 2003/0157789 (Tong). Tong teaches the adhesion layer can be applied by electroplating and screen printing and the UBM can be applied by sputtering (paragraphs 7 and 32). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the layers to utilize the claimed deposition process in order to ensure the layers are adequately formed (see Tong col. 10-32).

***Response to Arguments***

Applicants argue their invention indicates the chip is placed in this condition before installation, whereas AAPA shows an installed chip. The examiner agrees. Applicant then argues that AAPA does not teach the claim 1 limitation of "place the microchip in made-ready

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condition for installation." The examiner disagrees. During patent examination, the pending claims must be "given the broadest reasonable interpretation." Applicant always has the opportunity to amend the claims during prosecution, and broad interpretation by the examiner reduces the possibility that the claim, once issued, will be interpreted more broadly than is justified. In re Prater, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-51 (CCPA 1969). In the instant case, AAPA teaches the chip package for use in an electronic product (figure 2, items 4 and 1). It is the examiner's position that the preformed solder bar chip package "makes it ready" for installation in its ultimate use in the electronic product.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the chip is placed in this condition before installation) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

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Applicant argues the solder ball of AAPA is not a solder bar. The examiner disagrees. DICTIONARY.COM defines "bar" as "a structural or mechanical member." In applying the Prater test by giving the claims its broadest reasonable interpretation, it is the examiner's position that the solder ball of AAPA could be considered a solder bar because, inter alia, it is a mechanical member that assists in supporting the chip (4) on top of the pcb (1).

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

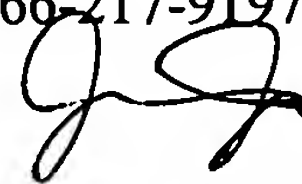
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Johnson whose telephone number is 571-272-1177. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30 AM-5:30 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pat Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jonathan Johnson  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1725

jj